

Simermeyer, Sequoyah

From: Grimes, Janis
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2009 3:27 PM
To: Simermeyer, Edward; Hart, Paula
Cc: Garcia, Heather
Subject: Fw: Tejon Indian Tribe: Meeting Request, Jan. 16th @ 3:30 pm, ASIA Conf Rm 4145
Importance: High

George has agreed to meet **tomorrow, Jan. 16th, at 3:30 p.m. in the ASIA Conf. Rm,**
with Tejon Chairwoman Kathryn Morgan, Heather Sibbison, and Arlinda Locklear

to discuss Federal recognition for the Tejon Indian Tribe.

George asked that Sequoyah and Paula attend this meeting with him.

Please reply to confirm your attendance.

Thank you,
Janis

----- Forwarded by Janis M Grimes/ASIA/OS/DOI on 01/15/2009 03:23 PM -----

From: "Sibbison, Heather" <hsibbison@montclaircc.edu>
To: Janis M Grimes/ASIA/OS/DOI@DOI
Date: 01/15/2009 07:16 AM
Subject: Tejon Indian Tribe: Meeting Request for Mr. Skibine

Happy New Year Miss Janis!

I am attaching a meeting request for the Chair of the Tejon Indian Tribe. She will be in Washington tomorrow, and in a conversation with Mr. Skibine he indicated that he would be willing to meet with her while she was here. He asked that I send you this request and mention that he already has agreed to see her.

Any help you could give us will be, as it always is, very much appreciated!

Thanks Janis,

Heather Sibbison



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though Congress never terminated the Tribe. Interior never has articulated any rationale for why the Tribe is not included on the list even though there was no congressional termination.

In June 2006 the Tejon Indian Tribe requested that the Department correct its error by restoring the Tribe to the list of federally recognized tribes, and submitted a substantial amount of historical documentation and legal analysis to support this request. The Tribe also provided information to the Department demonstrating that the Tribe would be entitled to regain federal recognition by organizing itself as a tribe under the Indian Reorganization Act's half-blood community reorganization provisions, which provide that a tribe or group of half-blood Indians may obtain federal recognition by complying with certain specified procedures. The Department did not respond to the Tribe's request that it be included on the list, and seemed to suggest that the Tribe should follow the half-blood community process instead. While the Department has reviewed the Tribe's request and additional historical and genealogical materials that it requested from the Tribe, and has certified that certain of the Tribe's members possess one-half or more Indian blood (which would entitle them to organize as a half-blood community), the Department has taken no further action to grant the Tribe's request.

We would like to discuss the best way to move the Tribe's request forward so that it can be included on the list of federally recognized tribes, and begin to receive the BIA services, assistance and funding needed to help the Tribe conduct its business as a government and provide services to its members.

ATTENDEES REPRESENTING THE TRIBE:

Chairwoman Kathryn M. Morgan
V. Heather Sibbison, Patton Boggs
Arlinda F. Locklear

CONTACT:

V. Heather Sibbison
(202/457-6148; hsibbison@pattonboggs.com)

REQUEST FOR MEETING

with

The Hon. George T. Skibine

To the Attention of:

Janice Grimes (Office of the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs)

202/208-5320

MEETING REQUESTED BY:

V. Heather Sibbison, on behalf of the
Tejon Indian Tribe

DATE SUBMITTED:

January 15, 2009

MEETING DATE(S) REQUESTED:

Friday, January 16th
Any time except between 1:30-3:30

LENGTH OF MEETING:

anything the Assistant Secretary has
available, even if just 5 or 10 minutes

MEETING REQUESTED WITH:

Assistant Secretary George T. Skibine

SUBJECT:

We would like to discuss the Tejon Indian Tribe's pending request for confirmation of its status as a federally recognized tribe, as well as the alternative approach of federal recognition of the Tribe through organization as a half-blood community.

BACKGROUND:

The Tejon Indian Tribe is a tribe of Indians most of whose members live near Bakersfield, California. The Tribe has a long history of recognition by the United States, including the United States entering into a treaty with the tribe in the 1850s, the United States acting as the Tribe's trustee on multiple occasions (including bringing land claim litigation on the Tribe's behalf all the way to the Supreme Court in the 1930s), and the United States holding land in trust for the Tribe at least through the early 1960s. It is also worth noting that many of today's Tribal elders literally are the very same people for whom, as children, the United States brought the Tribe's land claim in the 1930s, who received their education from BIA schools, and for whose benefit, as younger adults, the United States held land as a reservation until 1962. Nevertheless, only a few years later, the Department unilaterally excluded the Tejon Indian Tribe from the list of recognized tribes, even